

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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EMBASSY MOSCOW 2452

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, BU, VM

SUBJECT: VISIT OF VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO BULGARIA

1. NGUYEN DUY TRINH, VIETNAMESE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND MEMBJ OF THE POLITBURO OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BULGARIA FROM AUG 1-4. HE WAS RECEIVED BY BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE FIRST SECRETARY TODOR ZHIVKOV, AS WELL AS BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PETUR MLADEV, WHO HOSTED A DINNER, AND SECRETARY OF THE CC OF BCP DIMITUR STANISHEV. THE ANNOUNCEMENT (INTERESTINGLY, NOT A COMUNIQUE) OF THE VISIT WAS CARRIED IN THE AUG 5 RABOTNICHESKO DELO (ORGAN OF THE CC OF BCP).

2. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THE GREAT SIGNI-

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FICANCE OF THE FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNIST PARTIES. ACCORDING TO THE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT, THEY DENOUNCED PEKING'S ANTI-VIETNAMESE POLICY AND ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PHNOM PENH RULERS WHO ARE WAGING AN "AGGRESSIVE WAR" AND CREATING UNREST AMONG MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, ACTIONS FOR WHICH THEY ARE STERNLY DENOUNCED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC. THEY ALSO STRESSED THE ROLSSOF THE

BULGARIAN-VIETNAMESE COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION. IN ADDITION, THE TWO HIGHLY APPRAISED THE SUCCESSES OF THE "PROGRESSIVE FORCES" AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES FOR "STRENGTHENING ANTIIMPERIALIST AND ANTI-COLONIALIST OPINION."

3. ON THE BULGARIAN SIDE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THAT MLADENOV WISHED THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE NEW SUCCESSES IN THE EXECUTION OF DECISIONS OF THE HISTORIC IV CONGRESS OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY IN BUILDING A PEACEFUL, INDEPENDENT, AND UNITED SOCIALIST VIETNAM. HE ACCLAIMED THE "PEACE-LOVING" FOREIGN POLICY OF VIETNAM, POINTING OUT THE FULL SUPPORT OF BULGARIA FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS WITH CHINA AND CAMBODIA AND EXPRESSING THE NECESSITY OF GIVING A RESOLUTE REBUFF TO THE "PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS AND BRUTAL PRESSURE OF THE MAOISTS" AGAINST VIETNAM WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS A FOREMOST POST OF SOCIALISM AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR OF PEACE IN SOUTH EASTERN ASIA AND THE WORLD.

4. THE VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL THANKED BULGARIA FOR ITS VALUABLE SUPPLIES AND ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING SOCIALISM AND IN THE DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY. TRINH RECONFIRMED VIETNAM'S FULL SUPPORT FOR BULGARIA'S FOREIGN POLICY, AND HE ACCLAIMED THE BULGARIAN EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES AIMED AT "CONSOLIDATING GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS OF THE BALKAN STATES, AT SOLVING CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS

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IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT, GOOD WILL AND NON-INTERFERENCE" IN EUROPE AS IN THE WORLD.

5. A PLAN FOR SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION FOR 1978-80 WAS SIGNED FOR DEEPENING CONTACTS IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE, ART, PUBLIC HEALTH, PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORTS.

6. COMMENT: THE MAIN THRUST OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS THE JOINT CONDEMNATION OF THE PRC. AS IN THE CUBAN VISIT (SIMULTANEOUSLY HELD -- SEE SOFIA 1652), BILATERAL TIES

APPEARED TO BE STRENGTHENED. FOR BULGARIA'S PART, VIETNAM SERVES AS A DEVELOPING WORLD OUTLET FOR GOODS, THE QUALITY OF WHICH DO NOT MEET MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRY STANDARDS. IN TURN, VIETNAM IS BULGARIAN SOURCE FOR SOME DESIRABLE AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS SUCH AS PINEAPPLE JUICE. TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO IS MODEST; IN 1976 THE VOLUME WAS LESS THAN \$20 MILLION SPLIT 75:25 IN BULGARIA'S FAVOR.

GARTHOFF

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